

Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 HA-05 XMB-02 EB-08 OMB-01 TRSE-00
IO-13 L-03 H-01 SS-15 SP-02 SSO-00 NSCE-00
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FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES
TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 6834

S E C R E T BUENOS AIRES 6025

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SHUM, AR

SUBJECT: HUMAN RIGHTS; NOTE OF PROTEST FROM FONMIN

1. PURSUANT TO A REQUEST FROM THE FONMIN, I MET WITH HIM AT HIS OFFICE, WITH NO ONE ELSE PRESENT, AT 1900 HRS TONIGHT (THURSDAY, AUG. 3). PROMPTLY AT 1900 HRS HE WALKED INTO THE VIP ROOM AND IT REQUIRED HIS WALKING FROM ONE END OF THE HALL TO THE OTHER END WHERE I WAS STANDING. I CAREFULLY OBSERVED HIM. HE LOOKED GRIM AND HIS EXPRESSION WAS AS IF HE HAD JUST ATTENDED A FUNERAL. THIS PROMPTED MY EXTENDING HIM MY CONDOLENCES FOR THE UNTIMELY DEATH OF ADMIRAL LAMBRUSCHINI'S DAUGHTER.

2. LEAVING HIM NO ALTERNATIVE, FONMIN MONTES THANKED ME. HE THEN SAID IN A STERN MANNER "I'M HANDING YOU A NOTE OF PROTEST AGAINST YOUR GOVERNMENT. THE LAST INCIDENT OF EXIM BANK DENYING CREDITS TO GOA IS MORE THAN WE CAN TOLERATE. WE CONSIDER THAT AN INTRUSION INTO THE AFFAIRS OF A SOVEREIGN GOVERNMENT." WHILE THE FONMIN WAS TALKING, HE LOWERED HIS HEAD IN A MOST DRAMATIC FASHION, SPREADING OUT HIS ARMS AS IF TO GIVE ME MY LAST SACRAMENT, SAYING "I HAD HOPED THIS WOULD NEVER HAPPEN BETWEEN OUR TWO COUNTRIES".

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3. REALIZING IT WAS BEST TO SHIFT INTO A LESS EMOTIONAL SUBJECT, I SUGGESTED TO FONMIN RELATIONS BETWEEN USG AND GOA COULD STILL CONTINUE IN HARMONY. I EXPRESSED TO MONTES THE PROCESS WAS SIMPLE. FIRST EVERY EFFORT SHOULD BE MADE SO IAHRG WOULD VISIT ARGENTINA. I STRESSED RELATIONS BETWEEN BOTH COUNTRIES WERE NOT CONTINGENT ON A GOOD OR BAD REPORT FROM IAHRG. OF COURSE, WE

ALL WISHED FOR THE BEST, BUT IT WAS INCUMBENT GOA'S INVITATION TO IAHRC BE ACCEPTED. I EXPLAINED ONCE THAT OCCURRED MILITARY TRAINING WOULD FOLLOW. SUBSEQUENTLY BASED ON OTHER POSITIVE STEPS, RELEASE OF SPARE PARTS ETC. WOULD BE CONSIDERED. HE NODDED HIS HEAD AND SAID HE UNDERSTOOD THE PROCESS. IT WAS MADE CLEAR POSITIVE ACTS WOULD BE CONSIDERED UNDER ANY CIRCUMSTANCES.

4. I THEN INQUIRED INTO THE STATUS OF THE COMMISSION. MONTES EXPLAINED SEVEN INTERROGATORIES HAD BEEN PROPOUNDED BY IAHRC, AND HAD BEEN SUBMITTED TO VIDELA. I THEN INQUIRED IF ANY ACTION HAD BEEN TAKEN BY THE PRESIDENT. HE REPLIED NEGATIVELY. COMMENT: FOR OBVIOUS REASONS, I DID NOT INFORM FONMIN THAT GENERAL BIGNONE, ON BEHALF OF PRESIDENT VIDELA, HAD GIVEN TO ME THE PROPOSED ANSWERS TO THE SEVEN QUESTIONS. BIGNONE TOLD ME ABOUT A WEEK AGO THESE PROPOSED ANSWERS WERE BEING SENT TO FONOFF WITH INSTRUCTIONS FOR IMMEDIATE SUBMISSION TO IAHRC.

5. I AGAIN SUGGESTED TO FONMIN OF IMPORTANCE OF A POSITIVE APPROACH. I COMMENDED HIM FOR HIS NEWSPAPER INTERVIEW IN WHICH HE STATED RELATIONS WITH USG WERE NORMAL AND HOPEFULLY WOULD REACH AN OPTIMUM POINT SOON. MONTES EXPLAINED HE HAD BEEN INVITED TO BE A SPEAKER AT AMERICAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE. HE SAID HE DECLINED SO AS TO AVOID BEING ASKED QUESTIONS ON RELATIONS WITH USG. HE CONCLUDED SAYING HE WAS ALARMED BY THE ANTI-USG ATTITUDE PREVAILING AT THE LAMBRUSCHINI DAUGHTER FUNERAL. HE SAID IF CARE WAS NOT EXERCISED THE "BRADEN-PERON" ATMOSPHERE WOULD AGAIN REIGN.
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6. ON MY DEPARTURE FROM FONOFF THE PRESS WAS WAITING FOR ME. ON BEING QUESTIONED, I USED THE NO COMMENT APPROACH AND INDICATED I WAS JUST MAKING MY USUAL VISITS TO THE FONOFF. THIS, OF COURSE, DIDN'T SELL.

7. FEARING INTERNATIONAL PRESS MAY HAVE COPY OF NOTE, I AM TRANSMITTING NOTE CONTENTS VERBATIM IN SPANISH SO AS TO AVOID DIFFERENCES OF OPINION ON TRANSLATION. NOTE FOLLOWS:

"MINISTRO DE RELACIONES EXTERIORES Y CULTO

BUENOS AIRES, 3 DE AGOSTO DE 1978.

"SEÑOR EMBAJADOR:

"TENGO EL AGRADO DE DIRIGIRME A VUESTRA EXCELENCIA CON EL OBJETO DE HACERLE LLEGAR ALGUNAS REFLEXIONES SOBRE LAS RELACIONES BILATERALES DE NUESTROS PAISES, EN ADICION A LAS QUE LE EXPRESARA EL SEÑOR SUBSECRETARIO DE RALACIONES EXTERIORES, CAPITAN DE NAVIO GUALTER O. ALLARA, DURANTE LA ENTREVISTA DEL PASADO MIERCOLES 19 DE JULIO.

"RESULTA DE TODO PUNTO DE VISTA IMPOSIBLE CONCILIAR LAS APRECIADAS MANIFESTACIONES DE VUESTRA EXCELENCIA SOBRE EL INTERES DEL GOBIERNO DE LOS ESTADOS UNIDOS DE MANTENER UNA CORDIAL RELACION CON EL GOBIERNO ARGENTION, CON ACTITUDES COMO LA DE DAR A CONOCER UN COMUNICADO DE PRENSA EL DIA 18 DE JULIO ULTIMO, EN EL QUE SE HACEN APRECIACIONES CARENTES DE TODO CONTENIDO AMISTOSO, AL INFORMAR SOBRE LA DENEGACION DE UNA CARTA DE INTENCION SOLICITADA POR LA EMPRESA ALLIS CHALMERS COR. AL EXIMBANK.

" NO ES EL CASO SENOR EMBAJADOR, DE REPLANTEAR LAS ARGUMENTACIONES QUE DESDE HACE BASTANTE TIEMPO VIENEN SIENDO EXPRESADAS CON PACIENTE SERENIDAD POR MI GOBIERNO AL DE VUESTRA SECRET

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EXCELENCIA EN OCASION DE LAS DISTINTAS VISITAS DE FUNCIONARIOS ESTADOUNIDENSES A BUENOS AIRES, COMO ASI TAMBIEN EN LAS ENTREVISTAS DE FUNCIONARIOS ARGENTINOS CON FUNCIONARIOS DEL DEPARTAMENTO DE ESTADO EN WASHINGTON. EL GOBIERNO DE LA REPUBLICA ARGENTINA SE HALLA IMBUIDO DE FIRMES CONVICCIONES DEMOCRATICAS Y POR ELLO EMPENADO DECIDIDAMENTE EN DEVOLVER A LA REPUBLICA -COMO LO VIENE HACIENDO- LA COMPLETA NORMALIZACION JURIDICA EN SU PROCESO DE REORGANIZACION INSTITUCIONAL. SE TRATA DE UN IMPERATIVO DE NUESTRA MANERA DE SER, UNA ASPIRACION QUE SE ENTRONCA CON EL COMIENZO DE NUESTRA HISTORIA INDEPENDIENTE Y QUE TIENE PLENA AUTONOMIA, YA QUE NO ESTA DETERMINADO POR FACTORES EXTERNOS.

"ME VEO AHORA, SENOR EMBAJADOR, ANTE LA OBLIGACION DE EXPRESAR POR VUESTRO INTERMEDIO AL GOBIERNO DE LOS ESTADOS UNIDOS DE AMERICA, QUE SU ACTITUD HACIA LA REPUBLICA ARGENTINA, EJEMPLIFICADA EN EL COMUNICADO DE PRENSA DE REFERENCIA ES UNA NUEVA INTROMISION EN LOS ASUNTOS INTERNOS DE UNA NACION SOBERANA.

"MI GOBIERNO LAMENTA LA PRESENTE SITUACION, SENOR EMBAJADOR, Y TENGA VUECENCIA LA CERTEZA DE QUE ESTE SENTIMIENTO ES COMPARTIDO POR TODO EL PUEBLO ARGENTION, DOLIDO POR ESTA NUEVA MUESTRA DE INCOMPRESION POR PARTE DEL GOBIERNO DE VUESTRA EXCELENCIA.

"RESULTA PENOSO ADVERTIR QUE LOS SACRIFICIOS Y PENURIAS POR LOS QUE PASARA Y PASA AUN HOY EL PEUBLE ARGENTION PARA ALCANZAR LA LIBERTAD Y SEGURIDAD TAN ANHELADAS Y A LAS QUE NO RENUNCIARA, SEAN DESCONOCIDOS DE UNA MANERA TAN FLAGRANTE.

"QUIERO NO OBSTANTE AFIRMA MI CONVICCION DE QUE A PESAR DE LOS ACTOS DE INCOMPRESION QUE MENCIONO, FINALMENTE SECRET

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HABRA DE PREVALECER EL SENTIMIENTO DE JUSTICIA QUE ANIMA A SU
PUEBLO Y QUE LAS RELACIONES DE NUESTROS DOS PAISES PODRAN VOL
VER A LOS NIVELES DE AMISTAND TRADICIONALES.

"SALUDO A VUESTRA EXCELENCIA CON MI CONSIDERACION MAS
DISTINGUIDA."
MONTES"
CASTRO

SECRET

NNN

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